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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

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Southend, Ledbury.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947, which is submitted under Article 17 sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and in accordance with Circular 170/47 of the Ministry of Health. The Report does not contain any special item inserted on particular instructions of the Council, but deals generally with matters having a bearing upon the health of the inhabitants.

Whilst the very low incidence of infection, which was experienced in 1946, has not been maintained, the increase in notifiable disease was small. Nevertheless, the experience of the district was fortunate in one respect, for whilst infantile paralysis throughout the country showed a great increase above the average, only one such case occurred within the Ledbury Rural District.

Throughout the year, the work of the Department was facilitated by the co-operation which was received from the medical practitioners within the area, and I much appreciate this help.

In addition, I wish to acknowledge the assistance given me not only in the preparation of this report but throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. H. W. Orme (Clerk to the Council), Mr. A. T. Thomas (Financial Officer), and Mr. E. E. Jordan (Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor).

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,

Area Medical Officer of Health.

7th August, 1948.

SECTION A. : STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	49,867
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947)	...				2,391
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£34,118
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£137 18s. 3d.
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population					8,551

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	..	18.6
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	...	18.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)		12.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

			Rate per 1,000	
			Deaths	Total Births
Heading No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30	Other Puerperal Causes		Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	44.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...			50.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...			Nil

The Ledbury Rural District lies in the south-east of the County, the Malvern Hills forming the eastern boundary of the area. It is purely rural in character and dairy farming, fruit and hop-growing are important occupations. The few other industries carried out are dependant upon agriculture.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year resident population is 8,551, but during the month of September there is a large influx of population for the hop-picking. It is probable that the population is temporarily increased by 80 % for a period of from four to six weeks depending upon the crop. It is estimated that half of this increase is due to children under 14 years of age.

The estimated average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.6. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.046, and the estimated average number of persons per acre is 0.172. The natural increase of the population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths for the year was 51

Births.

The total number of live births for the year was 159 (82 males and 77 females) which represented a decrease of 21 on the previous year. The live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 18.6, whilst the corresponding figure for the previous year is 21.1. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1947 is 20.5 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births is 19 (12 males and 7 females) or 11.9% of the total live births. This figure is somewhat higher than that of the previous year.

Still Births.

The number of still births registered is 6, which represents an increase of 2 on the previous year. The still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births calculates out to 18.5 per 1,000 total births, or 0.71 per 1,000 population. The latter figure compares with a still birth rate for 1947 of 0.050 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 108 (53 males and 55 females), after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

It is not at present possible to give a corrected death rate, but the crude death rate of England and Wales for the year is 12.0 per 1,000 population.

A table of causes of death is given below :—

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX.

Heading No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	2	3
8	Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	—	1
9	Influenza ...	—	1	1
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	—	1	1
13 (a)	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Cesophagus in Males ...	—	—	—
13 (b)	Cancer of Uterus in Females ...	—	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	1	4
15	Cancer of Breast ...	—	2	2
16	Cancer of all Other Sites ...	2	5	7
17	Diabetes ...	—	1	1
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	6	7	13
19	Heart Disease ...	18	17	35
20	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	1	3
21	Bronchitis ...	1	—	1
22	Pneumonia ...	2	2	4
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	—	1	1
25	Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	1	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	2	2
28	Nephritis ...	2	1	3
31	Premature Births ...	—	1	1
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries and Infancy Diseases ...	3	0	3
34	Road Traffic Accident ...	1	—	1
35	Other Violent Causes ...	1	3	4
36	All Other Causes ...	9	6	15
All Causes ...		53	55	108

It will be observed that the most frequent cause of death is under Heading No. 19, Heart Disease, which accounted for 35 deaths with Heading No. 18, Intracranial Vascular Lesions, that is disease of the arteries of the brain, next in order of frequency with 13 deaths. This is quite usual experience.

It will also be noted that the number of male deaths and female deaths are almost identical. The crude death rate for the year at 12.6 per 1,000 is slightly less than that of the previous year (13.0 per 1,000 population).

Infant Mortality.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age (5 males and 2 females) ; all were legitimate infants which gives an infant mortality rate of 44.0 per 1,000 live births. This is somewhat higher than the same rate for England and Wales, which is 41 for the year, and is the lowest rate recorded. For the year 1946, the infant mortality was 3, which gave a rate of 16.7 per thousand live births which is exceptionally low.

Puerperal Deaths.

There are no puerperal deaths recorded, which is very satisfactory. The same absence of death from puerperal or other maternal causes was achieved during the previous year.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 14 deaths (5 males and 9 females) due to all forms of cancer, which gives a cancer death rate of 1.6 per 1,000 population. This is a slightly higher rate than that of the previous year (1.2) and is due to the increase in the number of female deaths attributed to cancer.

Deaths of Children under 2 Years of age due to Diarrhoea

Only one male death was recorded as due to diarrhoea. In the previous year there were no deaths of children under two years of age attributed to diarrhoea.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Pneumonia was given as the cause of death of 4 persons, and acute infectious encephalitis was the cause of one death.

SECTION B. : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Hereford, maintained by the Medical Research Council under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones, continued to provide an excellent service for the examination of the usual clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by this Laboratory on behalf of the Department :—

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.					
Swabs	...	...	...	...	9
Sputum	...	...	...	...	5
Water : Bacteriological			...	...	47
Water : Chemical	...		...	...	12
Total					<hr/> 73 <hr/>

In addition the Laboratory carries out investigations on behalf of the medical practitioners within the area. These are not included in the above table.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford. Infectious disease is dealt with by the ambulance stationed at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the District, the needs of which are met by the facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford. Accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease is provided by the Council at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital belonging to the Hereford Rural District Council.

Clinics.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic is held at Ledbury which is available to the inhabitants of the Rural District.

SECTION C. : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Geology.

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south-eastern sector of the County of Hereford and it can be regarded roughly as a valley of V shape running in a north-west to south-east direction, narrowing towards the south-east. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper Silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle areas, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills, in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malverns is somewhat complex, but on the Ledbury side upper Silurian rocks found at Woolhope seem to predominate. The floor of the valley is formed by the Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System, here frequently covered by a red heavy soil. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area does not appear to be richly supplied with natural water sources.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources, there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts. The year 1947 was one which was relatively free from complaints of shortage of water.

With so many separate sources of water supply, it is difficult for the Public Health Officers to exert a very efficient control of the quality of the water consumed by inhabitants. This shows considerable variation from water of excellent potable quality in the mains of Local Authorities to water of poor quality found in some of the shallow wells. Nevertheless, 12 samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for chemical examination and 47 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. As a result, 22 wells were found to be in need of cleansing and repair.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor and Ledbury Rural. These supplies form the only chlorinated supplies within the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 432 dwellings are supplied from mains by means of separate services. There are no stand pipe supplies.

There are other small piped schemes in operation at Eastnor (91 dwellings), Much Marcle (17 dwellings) and Tarrington (26 dwellings). It would appear that about 2,500 inhabitants are connected to piped supplies.

No new sources of public water supplies were developed within the area during the year and no extensions of public water mains were made.

There was no evidence of any disease arising as a result of the consumption of water within the area, and the waters available do not appear to have any solvent action upon lead or copper.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The parish of Colwall is provided with a modern system of public sewers to which most of the dwellings are connected. A small sewage disposal works is provided, this is of an old type but functions fairly satisfactorily. The possibility of renovation of these works is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Council and expert advice is being obtained.

In addition to the Colwall system, there is a short length of public sewer in the parish of Bosbury, taking the sewage of a small number of dwellings.

No extensions of public or private sewers was carried out during the year, but 18 new drains were provided, and 8 existing drains were found to be defective and repaired. No alterations were made to works of sewerage or sewage disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector made 30 tests of drains in the course of his duties.

Rivers and Streams.

The chief rivers flowing through the district are the Leadon, the Frome and the Cradley Brook, all are quite small. The Leadon, the largest stream of the area, is a tributary of the River Severn.

The condition of these streams was satisfactory apart from the River Leadon as it passes through the vicinity of Ledbury, where there is some evidence of pollution. This has received the attention of your officers and will be solved in part by the installation of a new purification system at an industrial establishment, and in part by the installation of new sewage disposal works by the Ledbury Urban District Council. Plans to achieve this are in hand.

Closest Accommodation.

It is estimated that about one-third of all the dwelling houses are provided with water closets and the remainder use earth closets. These water closets are concentrated in the parish of Colwall, as this parish has an adequate piped water scheme.

Every opportunity is taken to secure a conversion from the conservancy systems where possible and during the year four privies were converted to pail closets and two converted to water closets, whilst ten pail closets were converted to water closets. Conversions therefore resulted in the provision of twelve water closets and four pail closets. In addition ten other water closets and one pail closet were provided.

Public Cleansing.

A system of weekly domestic refuse collection is in operation in the parish of Colwall, the collection being carried out under contract by a motor vehicle, and disposal is made by tipping. The parish tip is small, conveniently situated and well maintained. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse or the cleansing and emptying of cess-pools and privies,

There is no refuse collection in the other parishes of the District. The Council, not being a highway authority, does not carry out street cleansing.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Articles 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 :—

INSPECTIONS :

Accumulations	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	4
Cowsheds and Dairies	..	..	..	154
Drainage	..	..	..	80
Drain Tests	..	..	..	30
Factories (without mechanical power)			..	38
Factories (with mechanical power)	..		..	27
Fruit and Hop-pickers quarters	..		..	134
Hotel Kitchens and Restaurants	..		..	2
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	..		..	4
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	71
Nuisances	..	..	..	31
Schools	..	..	..	6
Swimming Baths and Pools		..	..	6
Unsound Food	..	..	..	7
Water Supply	..	..	..	81
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925)			..	197
Housing (other)	..	..	..	94

NOTICES ISSUED :

Informal	..	..	..	..	16
Statutory under other Acts		..	..	..	5

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED :

Drains and Gullies Cleared	..	..	2
Drains Repaired	..	..	2
Drains Reconstructed	..	..	6
New Drains Provided	..	..	18
Closets Repaired	..	..	12
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	..	..	4
Pail Closets Converted to Water Closets	..	..	10
Privies Converted to Water Closets	..	..	2
New Inspection Chambers Provided	..	..	61
Inspection Chambers Repaired	..	..	10
New Sinks Provided	..	..	18
Water Supplies Provided	..	..	16
Sanitary Fittings Provided	..	..	24
Soil Pipes Repaired	..	..	5
Paving Repaired	..	..	13
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	..	..	4
Accumulations Removed	..	..	1
Cowsheds and Dairies Reconstructed	..	..	10
Cowsheds and Dairies Improved	..	..	11
Defective Floors Repaired	..	..	28
Defective Roofs Repaired	..	..	137
Defective Eves Gutters Repaired	..	..	60
Rain Water Pipes Provided or Repaired	..	..	28
Defective Brickwork Repaired	..	..	65
Defective Coppers Remedied	..	..	8
Wells Cleansed or Repaired	..	..	22
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied	..	..	124

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

There are two swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. The swimming pool owned by the Ledbury Urban District is just within the boundary, it is a small pool of an obsolete pattern and its use is continued because of lack of better provision.

The other pool is privately owned and is of the modern type equipped with circulating and filtration apparatus. Six samples of swimming bath water were submitted and all complied with the usual standards for these waters.

There is one private swimming bath not open to the public in the District and a privately owned pool at one time open to the public remained out of use throughout the year.

Hop and Fruit Pickers Quarters.

As the cultivation of hops is a most important phase of the agriculture of the area, it is customary for a large number of hop-pickers to move into the area for the picking. This commences at the beginning of September and is usually continued until the end of the first week of October.

During the 1947 season, it is estimated that over 6,000 pickers were lodged in accommodation provided by growers. This number being accompanied by a somewhat larger number of children. In addition, a significant number of pickers provide their own lodging by means of a caravan or tent.

Lodgings are provided by growers on 73 separate premises. These lodgings show considerable variation in size and nature. Some lodgings are formed from the temporary use and adaptation of farm buildings normally used for other purposes, but the trend at the present time is for special buildings to be erected for lodgings.

During the year, four new lodgings were provided on four farms, all were new buildings, erected in compliance with the byelaws.

The greatest difficulty in connection with the hop-pickers' lodgings lies in the attempt to control litter. Rubbish of all kinds becomes distributed over the grower's premises and whilst bins are provided for the reception of this rubbish little use seems to be made of these. Closets were not entirely satisfactory although new closets were provided by a number of growers. More attention is required on the part of growers to deal with both litter and closet accommodation.

The incidence of infectious disease amongst persons housed in hop-pickers lodgings was very small, measles was notified in three children on one farm. Apart from this, the health of the pickers was very good and I have no doubt that their health received considerable benefit from the change in their environment.

Camping Sites.

Camping in the district appears to be confined to Eastnor parish during the month of August, where camps for boy scouts are held each year in Eastnor Park. These are very satisfactory.

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Two School harvest camps organised by the County Executive Agricultural Committee were accommodated within the area. Camping does not constitute a major problem and it is estimated that the maximum number of persons camping on a particular day did not exceed 200.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwelling house was found to be infested with bed bugs, and no action was therefore necessary.

Factories Act, 1937.

At the end of the year there were six factories with mechanical power and twenty without mechanical power registered with the Local Authority. During the year, the former were inspected on 27 occasions and the latter on 38 occasions. Altogether three sanitary defects were found, namely inadequate ventilation in one instance and lack of adequate sanitary accommodation in two premises. Work to remedy these defects was put in hand after representation by the officers of the Local Authority.

Outworkers.

At the present time, there are no outworkers within the District registered with the Local Authority.

Factories Act, 1937: Part I of the Act.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	6	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	16	31	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	7	—	—
Total		26	65	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars (1)	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ..	9	2	2	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ..	10	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	12	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	60	3	3	—	—	—
Total ..						

SECTION D.: HOUSING.

New Dwellings.

The Council's first post-war programme of new dwellings, embracing twelve dwellings in the parish of Colwall, continued to make slow progress throughout the year. Progress was slow partly as a result of the weather and partly as a result of the general shortage of building labour and materials. At the end of the year no dwelling was ready for occupation.

Private persons, however, made slightly more rapid progress and five dwellings were completed and occupied at the end of the year. Three of these were situated in Ledbury Rural parish, one in Bosbury and one in Mathon. In addition, private owners commenced construction of a further seven dwellings, two of these being in Tarrington and one in each of the parishes of Much Marcle, Pixley, Munsley, Mathon and Colwall.

The total number of dwellings owned by the Local Authority including the twelve nearing completion at Colwall is now 90, which represents about 3·75 % of the occupied dwellings in the area.

The most urgent housing need continues to be the erection of new dwellings to satisfy the present demand, and to meet the needs of families badly housed and overcrowded. A major difficulty in connection with the erection of new dwellings is the somewhat inadequate water supplies in this particular area.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	277
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	291
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	183
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	197
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	8
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	160

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	157
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(i)	By owners	Nil
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices —	
(i)	By owners	3
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling - houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
4.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV - - OVERCROWDING :—

1.	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..	67
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	80
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	240
2.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	13
3.	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	Nil
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
4.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

In the course of the year, 291 housing inspections were made, of 277 dwellings. Eight of these dwellings were found to be unfit for human habitation and 160 dwellings were found to be defective. At the end of the year, these defective dwellings had been remedied.

Overcrowding.

Housing inspections also revealed 13 new cases of overcrowding, bringing the total number of known overcrowded dwellings to 67, involving about 240 persons.

Overcrowding, of which it must be remembered that the legal definition is somewhat low, can mainly only be relieved within a reasonable time by the construction of new dwellings.

The cost of construction of dwellings, at the present time, is somewhat high, and this is a factor which cannot be entirely neglected in any re-housing proposals which the Local Authority considers. A significant reduction of costs would bring benefit, in the form of a lower rent to the occupiers and no doubt ultimately secure the erection of an increased number of dwellings, particularly by private persons. Such reduction would also facilitate repairs to existing properties, as cost of such work at the present time is often a very heavy burden upon owners.

SECTION E. : INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

At the end of the year, 151 wholesale purveyors were registered with the Local Authority, under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and 54 retail purveyors were so registered. This shows an increase of four wholesale purveyors on comparison with the numbers of the previous year. The number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies made was 154, this is an increase in the corresponding number for 1946.

Two samples of water were taken from water supplies of registered premises and submitted for examination when doubt had been raised upon the quality of the supply for milk production purposes.

There are no plants for the pasturization of milk situated within the District and no supplementary licences for the sale of Pasturized Milk were issued by the Council.

The Sanitary Inspector, acting as Sampling Officer of the County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, submitted 57 samples of milk for laboratory examination.

No instance of disease conveyed by milk or suspected to be conveyed by milk was brought to the notice of your officers.

Ice Cream.

The sale of this particular foodstuff appeared to expand during the year, and four premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream and one person was registered as a manufacturer. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises ; four inspections were made.

Water Cress.

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are no slaughter-houses in use within the District, all slaughtering for meat for human consumption is now carried out at the Central Abattoir in Hereford. The necessity for inspection of slaughter-houses did not arise.

A certain amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time is devoted to the inspection of food exposed for sale, etc., and in the course of this work the following food was found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption :—

12 tins	...	...	Evaporated Milk
1 tin	...	...	Sausage
1 tin	...	...	Bacon
70 lbs.	...	...	Beef

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, but the attention of your officers was directed to an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting in children following a school meal. Whilst this was suggestive of a food borne infection no confirmatory evidence was obtained. It is essential if such outbreaks are to be properly investigated that the Department should receive prompt notification. It is also essential that specimens of the stools, vomit, and the suspected food should be available for bacteriological examination. This is not possible after the lapse of time, so that delayed notification is of very little value.

SECTION F. : PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was not excessive as 166 notifications of disease were received. This shows an increase of 64 notifications received during 1946 when infectious disease was unusually low.

Measles.

The most prevalent infectious disease was measles, 108 notifications being received. This shows very little change on the previous year when 102 notifications of measles were received. All but seven of the patients were children under 15 years of age, the maximum incidence occurring in those between 5 and 10 years. It was necessary for one case to be admitted to hospital, but there were no deaths. The incidence of the disease was not excessive, and the first quarter was the period of highest incidence. There was a significant fall at the end of March and the incidence then remained steady until the end of the third quarter when it disappeared. Females were more prone to attack than males.

Whooping Cough.

There were 50 notifications of whooping cough received within the year, which is a moderate incidence. In the previous year, the disease was almost completely absent from the area as only seven cases were notified. In 1944, 1943 and 1941 the incidence was much greater. The District remained almost free from infection until the last quarter of the year when 32 notifications were received. No admissions to hospital were necessary and there were no deaths.

Measles and whooping cough together accounted for 158 notifications from a total of 166 for the year. It will, therefore, be seen that the incidence of other notifiable disease was very small.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in each sex according to quarter (confirmed civilian cases only) :—

CONFIRMED CIVILIAN CASES FOR EACH QUARTER ACCORDING TO SEX.

Disease	1st Q'ter		2nd Q'ter		3rd Q'ter		4th Q'ter		Year	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Measles	18	37	14	13	14	11	—	1	46	62
Pneumonia	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	10	5	—	1	14	18	25	25
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
All Diseases	22	38	25	18	15	13	14	19	76	90

The above table shows that only one notification of each disease was received respecting scarlet fever, erysipelas, diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis. I regard this as very satisfactory. Only two notifications of pneumonia were received.

The following table gives the incidence of infectious disease at various age groups :—

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals
Measles ...	2	8	4	10	12	44	21	4	3	—	—	—	108
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	4	7	3	3	28	4	—	—	—	—	—	50
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	3	12	11	14	15	73	26	6	3	1	1	1	166

The efficiency of notification appears to be very satisfactory.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The work proceeded fairly satisfactorily throughout the year, and the Department was greatly assisted by the co-operation received from the medical practitioners within the area. The prophylactic used is chiefly alum precipitated toxoid (A.P.T.) and toxoid antitoxin floccules (T.A.F.) for reinforcing doses and occasionally for primary injections in older children. Experience has shown the treatment to be simple, safe and effective.

Altogether seventy-seven persons under fifteen years of age received complete courses of prophylactic, sixty-three of these being children under five years of age. The following table gives the number of children receiving complete courses according to age group in each quarter :—

CHILDREN IMMUNISED DURING YEAR 1947.

Age Group	0 — 4 years	5 — 14 years	0 — 14 years
1st Quarter ..	7	—	7
2nd Quarter ..	11	6	17
3rd Quarter ..	20	7	27
4th Quarter ..	25	1	26
Year	63	14	77

Four reinforcing doses were given.

The purpose of the scheme is that every child should receive a complete course of prophylactic (before attaining the age of one year), and should thereafter receive a small reinforcing dose of prophylactic at intervals of about five years until attaining the age of sixteen years. At present this is seldom fully achieved, for whilst the position is fairly satisfactory as regards primary treatment, the opportunities for maintaining protection by means of reinforcing doses are few. No sick testing (for ascertainment of the efficiency of the treatment) can be undertaken at the present time.

The following table shows the number of children in each age group who have received treatment in the estimated resident population :—

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947								
Age at 21-12-47 i.e. Born in Year ..	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10 to 14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised	2	31	48	88	113	497	545	1324
Estimated mid-year child population 1947	Children under 5					Children 5—14		1974
	701					1273		

It will be seen that 282 children under five years of age had received treatment, or 40.2% of this particular age group, whilst 1042 children aged 5-14 years had been treated, or 81.9% of the age group. If these figures are combined, 1324 children under fifteen years of age had received treatment from a total estimated child population of 1974, or 67.1% were presumed protected. It will be noticed that treatment for those under five years of age seems to be less favoured than for those over school age.

One confirmed case of diphtheria occurred during the year, in an adult who had never received any prophylactic treatment. A satisfactory recovery was made.

Scabies.

No notifications of this disease were received during the year.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1946, there were 58 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 45 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary. During the year 1947, 12 cases were added to the Register, 10 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, of these 7 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Nine pulmonary cases were removed from the Register, and on the 31st December, 1947, 61 cases remained on the Register, 46 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1+ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5+ ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15+ ..	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
25+ ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35+ ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45+ ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55+ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+ ..	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
All Ages ..	3	4	1	1	1	2	—	—

